

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/032,090	GRABSCHEID ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	

Eric Hug 1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 28, 2003.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 22,23 and 40-113.
 3. The drawings filed on 31 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed on May 28, 2003.

Claims 22, 23, and 40-113 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not disclose or suggest a process for conditioning a circulating felt of a machine for producing a fibrous web, wherein the conditioning is performed at a plurality of zones across the width of the felt, and whereby the process comprises at least the following features with respect to the given claims:

For claims 22 and 23:

-measuring the web CD profile, the felt CD profile, or the permeability of felt across its width or across the width of the web

- conditioning each zone of the felt across its width depending on the measured results obtained for a respective zone, wherein the conditioning comprises supplying separately adjustable amounts of a diluted conditioning medium to various zones in accordance with target values, which are variable.

For claims 40-71:

-measuring the web CD profile, the felt CD profile, or the permeability of felt across its width or across the width of the web

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-calculating a mean value from the measured results
-conditioning each of the plurality of zones based on the measured results, whereby the intensity of conditioning in each zone depends on the deviation between the measured results of a zone and the mean value.

For claims 72-104:

-measuring a web CD profile
-determining measurements for a plurality of zones of the web
-further measuring the felt CD profile or the permeability of the felt across its width
-determining measurements for a plurality of zones of the felt
-conditioning the plurality of zones of the felt based on respective zone measurements of the web and the felt.

For claims 105:

-measuring web CD profile and felt CD profile
-determining deviations between measured zone values and a mean value
-conditioning the plurality of zones of the felt depending on the deviations.

For claims 112 and 113:

-measuring web CD profile and either the felt CD profile the permeability of the felt across its width

-determining the mean value of web measurements (claim 112) or felt measurements (claim 113), and determining the deviations of zone measurements from the mean value -condition each of the plurality of zones of the felt based on the deviations.

With regards to claims 106-111, the prior art also does not disclose or suggest a pipe suction apparatus or traversing pipe suction apparatus for performing the method of claim 105, with the claimed features of a ceramic body extending across the entire width of the belt that subjects the felt to vacuum, and provided with a slotted surface being zonally adjustable by way of movable tongues.

Prior art devices for conditioning a circulating felt in a web producing machine have different features than that of the present invention and perform the conditioning by a different methodology than the present invention. For example Rokman (US 5,135,615) discloses a device comprising a single traversing measuring head which measures the permeability or moisture of a press felt. The device also comprises nozzles for reconditioning the felt. The condition of the felt is measured in a single stripe of predetermined width and then the conditioning is performed at that one location based on the measured condition. Blom (US 5,349,845) discloses an apparatus that performs a similar method of measuring the moisture, temperature, or permeability of a paper machine felt and then reconditioning the felt based on the measured condition. In Blom, reference profiles of idealized felt condition are used as target data for reconditioning the felt. Pikulik et al (US 5,725,737) discloses an apparatus for detecting holes and plugged spots in a moving paper machine fabric through measurements of fabric

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permeability. Cleaning showers are then aimed at those positions only deemed necessary for cleaning based on the permeability measurements. Haythornthwaite (US 3,859,163) discloses a method of cleaning a moving felt in a paper making machine based on sensed vacuum measurements that indicate the moisture content of the felt and the condition of the felt. A high pressure shower is activated whenever the vacuum at any point rises above a predetermined level indicating clogging or plugging of the felt.

The above references teach measuring a localized condition of the felt and then conditioning the felt as needed based on the measurement. These references and other prior art references do not teach zonal conditioning based on simultaneous widthwise zone measurements of both the web and felt, and conditioning the felt based on differences between the zonal measurements of the web and felt and a mean value measurement. The prior art references also do not suggest supplying separate adjustable amounts of conditioning medium to a plurality of zones based on the zonal measurements.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 703 308-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9310 for regular communications and 703 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0651.

Eric Hug
jeh
August 4, 2003

Steven P. Griffin
STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700